Number of stations to offer natural gas grows

Vehicles burning natural gas-will be able to fill up beginning. Aug. 29 at a Shell station on Wis-om Hoad south of 1-96 in Wisom. Consumers Power Co, will pro-vide natural gas, as it does for a gooding number of stations in Michigan.
With the addition of Windmill Truck Stop (near Lansing) and the Shell station in Wisom, the NGV (natural gas vehicle) public fueling infrastructure has grown to 13 stations in the lower penin-suls and two in the UP, said Vance G. Anderson, director of NGV programs for Consumers Power, the Jackson-based utility. "This clean-burning, economi-cal and domestically abundant natural gas is truly becoming a vi-sible fuel option for freet operators in Michigan, "Anderson said. So far, state government is the hief customer. The departments of Transportation, Natural Re-sources, Management and Budg-et, Corrections, and Social Ser-vices had 19 NGVs in their fleets last spring with plans to put a to-st of '905 in by fall.

last spring with plans to put a to-tal of '05 in by fall.

Reason: Under the 1992 federal Energy Policy Act, state and fed-

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Consumers Power plans to purchase or convert 30 percent of its new light-duty vehicles to alternative fuels by 1998; 50 percent by 1997; and 90 percent by 2000.

cral governments must acquire or convert 75 percent of their new light-duty vehicles to alternative fuels such as natural gas by the end of the decade.

"We've had termendous aucceas with NGVs," said Duano Berger, director of the state's motor transport division, the praised NG's clean burning quality.

Second biggest customer is Consumers Power Istelf. On June 1 it took delivery of five Fordbuilt trucks, modified by TDM World Conversion in Auburn Hills. TDM is the first company in Michigan and second in the nation to be recognized as a Ford conversion installer.

NG vehicles are driven by meter readers in the Livonia service area, Anderson said. The Pontlee area already has 25 NG vehicles. Consumers Power plans to purchase or convert 30 percent

of its new light-duty vehicles to alternative fuels by 1996; 50 percent by 1997; and 90 percent by 2000.

The Wixom stations grand opening for natural gas will be at 10 a.m. on Aug. 29. Operator is Mark Ambroelsk.

According to a listing by the utility, other public NG stations in the immediate area are Andrews Ameroo no University Drive, Auburn Hills; and Speedway on Sheldon Road at Five Mile, Plymouth.

Many alternative fuel fleets have private fueling facilities, but

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Consumers Power reports it has been "working aggressively states," wide" to build a strong public fueling infrastructure. Said Ford Motor spokesman Don Kaegi, division ficet sales manager: "We've made tremen-dous atrides in reducing tailpipe

emissions of gasoline vehicles during the past 20 years, and we believe that cooperation between automakers, converters and fuel providers will allow alternative fuels to contribute to continuing this trend." Meanwhile, the state Senate is

considering five bills that would affect NGVa. SB 557 would exempt from the sales tax the difference in price between a gasolinepowered vehicle and an alternative-fueled whitele. Other bills
would provide property, income,
and single business tax breaks.



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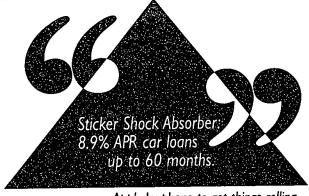
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